

## JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

July 18, 2007

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT CORPS OF  
ENGINEERS PERMITS SECTION  
P.O. BOX 60627  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70160

**Phone** (504) 862-2225

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**CORPS REVIEWER:**  
**Brad Laborde**

**COE NUMBER:**  
**MVN- 2007- 2686- EOO**

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
COASTAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
P.O. BOX 44487  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70804-4487

**Phone** (225) 342-7358

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**CMD REVIEWER:**  
**Ontario James**

**COASTAL USE PERMIT NUMBER:**  
**P20070927**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Coastal Management Division of the Department of Natural Resources has received the following application for a **Coastal Use Permit (CUP)** in accordance with the State and Local Coastal Resources Management Act of 1978, as amended, (Louisiana R.S. 49, Sections 214.21-214.41), and the rules and regulations of the Coastal Resources Program.

Additionally, interested parties are hereby notified that applications have been received by the District Engineer for a Department of the Army permit to authorize the following pursuant to: [X] Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344) and/or [X] Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899 (33 USC 403).

The official date of the beginning of the public comment period for Coastal Use Permit applications begins on the date of publication of the notice in the official state journal (The Advocate), in accordance with the Rules and Procedures for Coastal Use Permits, §723.C.5.c. The Coastal Management Division will inform interested parties of the exact date of publication on request.

\*Habitat impacts are based on available in-house data and may not represent actual conditions. Field reconnaissance may be required to verify extent of impacts.

Approximately NO acres of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) utilized by various life stages of red drum and panæid shrimp would be altered or destroyed by this project. This information is provided to initiate federal consultation requirements pertaining to EFH under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

**NAME:** **CASTEX ENERGY, INC.**  
c/o JOHN CHANCE LAND SURVEYS, INC.  
200 DULLES DRIVE  
LAFAYETTE, LA 70506  
Attn: Aaron Landry

**LOCATION:** **Saint Charles Parish, LA;** Proposed location (NAD 83) @ Lat. 29° 49' 04"N and Long. 90° 21' 39"W; X = 3,589,234', Y = 480,526'; T14S-R21E, approximately 5.5 miles southeasterly of Paradis, Louisiana.

**DESCRIPTION:** Proposal to construct a board road for access, culverts and a drill site with a 400' x 350' ring levee, to drill and produce the Simoneaux Well No. 001. Inside the ring levee, the applicant will place a board mat to serve as a work platform during drilling operations. To access the well location, the applicant will utilize an existing road. To improve the existing road, gravel (6" high) will be deposited as a base for the board road (+/-8,520' x 14') that will be laid on top of the existing road; and will install 20' x 24' culverts at varying intervals, but at least every 250' to maintain hydrology in the area if necessary. Upon abandonment of the location, wetlands will be restored as near to pre-project conditions as practical. Approximately 503 cubic yards of excavation required to construct ring levee. Approximately 2,367 cubic yards of gravel required for road improvement. \*.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality WQC will close **30 days** from the date of this joint public notice. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons thereof, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit and/or this WQC request and must be mailed so as to be received before or by the last day of the comment period. Letters concerning the Corps of Engineers permit application must reference the applicant's name and the Permit Application Number, and be mailed to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, **ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH**. Similar letters concerning the Water Quality Certification must reference the applicant's name and the WQC Application number and be mailed to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality at the address above.

The application for this proposed project is on file with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and may be examined during weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Copies may be obtained upon payment of costs of reproduction.

### **Corps of Engineers Permit Criteria**

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public, federal, state, and local agencies and officials, Indian Tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to make, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

No properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places are near the proposed work. The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, historical sites, or data. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would neither affect any species listed as endangered by the U.S. Departments of Interior or Commerce, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any endangered species.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal would result in the destruction or alteration of n/a acres of EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum and penaeid shrimp. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a

substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not violate water quality standards will be required from the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services before a permit is issued.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

The applicant has certified that the proposed activity described in the application complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program. The Department of the Army permit will not be issued unless the applicant received approval or a waiver of the Coastal Use Permit by the Department of Natural Resources.

You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.